

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 CU-04 OMB-01 DRC-01 /151 W

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R 240443Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7618

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 16494

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJ: NORTHEAST WAITING TO SEE WHAT NEW GOVERNMENT DOES

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION BANGKOK INFO CHIANG MAI OCT 20

FM UDORN RPTD FOR YOUR INFO:

UDORN 126

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: NORTHEAST WAITING TO SEE WHAT NEW GOVERNMENT DOES.

1. SUMMARY: OFFICIALS WE TALKED TO IN SEVERAL PROVINCES OF NORTHEAST HAVE RECEIVED NO ORDERS FROM NEW GOVERNMENT AND ARE UNCERTAIN WHAT CHANGES IT MAY MAKE, OTHER THAN DRAFTING NEW CONSTITUTION AND HOLDING ELECTIONS. STUDENTS EVERYWHERE ARE COLLECTING FUNDS TO SEND BANGKOK. FEW SCHOOLS STILL CLOSED, BUT OTHER OFFICIAL BUSINESS AND COMMERCE HAVE REMAINED NORMAL THROUGHOUT. END SUMMARY.

2. WE SPOKE THIS WEEK WITH OFFICIALS IN UDORN, KHON KAEN, MAHA SARAKHAM, ROI ET, LOEI, UBON, AND KORAT PROVINCES TO ASCERTAIN REACTION TO EVENTS SURROUNDING CHANGE OF
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GOVERNMENT.

3. GOVERNOR CHAI IN ROI ET, FORMER AIDE TO MARSHAL PRAPHAT, APPEARED UNCONCERNED ABOUT HIS OWN FUTURE BUT SAID HE GOING TO BANGKOK OCT 19 TO SEE MILITARY ACADEMY CLASSMATE, GENERAL KRIT. CHAI THOUGHT ROI ET MURDER CASE INVOLVING FORMER GOVERNOR PRAMOON NOT ENDED BUT REGRETTED THAT CASE WOULD BE PURSUED IN ROI ET SINCE PRAMOON HIS GOOD FRIEND. IN KORAT, GOVERNOR PRAMOON ENSCONCED IN HIS HOUSE WITH ARMED GUARDS. HE DID NOT EMERGZHTROM HOUSE OCT 14-18. WIDESPREAD RUMORS IN KORAT THAT STUDENTS WILL DEMONSTRATE FOR PRAMOON'S OUSTER IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. CHAI ALSO SAID STUDENTS SHOULD GO BACK TO SCHOOL AND NOT GET INVOLVED ANYMORE IN POLITICS. HE PLEASED WITH HIMSELF FOR KEEPING COLLEGE STUDENTS FROM NEIGHBORING MAHA SAKHAM OUT OF ROI ET WHEN THEY TRIED TO COME IN TO GET HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS THERE TO DEMONSTRATE TO COLLECT FUNDS FOR BANGKOK. CHAI SAID FORMER ROI ET M.P. HAD ALSO TRIED TO ORGANIZE STUDENT DEMONSTRATION BUT HE HAD STOPPED HIM ALTHOUGH GIVING STUDENTS PERMISSION TO COLLECT FUNDS THEMSELVES.

5. IN MAHA GOVERNOR SUJIN KITTYARAK SAID HE HAD TRIED TO CONTACT BANGKOK TO GET PERMISSION TO CLOSE SHCOOLS IF STUDENTS LOOKED AS IF THEY MIGHT GET OUT OF HAND, BUT WHEN HE COULD NOT GET THROUGH HE AUTHORIZED CLOSING OF TEACHER'S COLLEGE, MEN'S VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, AND COLLEGE OF EDUCATION. TEACHER'S COLLEGE REOPENED OCT 18 AND OTHERS SCHEDULED DO SO OCT 22. SUJIN ALSO SAID WHEN HE HEARD STUDENTS WOULD TRY TO TAKE OVER LOCAL AIR FORCE RADIO STATION HE SENT POLICE TO GUARD IT BUT STUDENTS NEVER WENT THERE. ONLY FEW COLLEGE OF EDUCATION STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES WENT TO BANGKOK AND HAVE SINCE RETURNED. VICE DEAN FROM COLLEGE WENT TO BANGKOK DURING WEEK FOR MEETING SCHEDULED EARLIER.

6. NEW LOEI GOVERNOR SAWAT CHALERMPHONG NOT UNHAPPY ABOUT OUSTER COLONEL NARONG WHOM HE HAD TROUBLE WITH IN HIS

PREVIOUS POSITION AS GOVERNOR OF PHETCHABUN.
SAWAT HAD SUCCEEDED IN GETTING A DISTRICT POLICE CHIEF
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REASSIGNED FROM PROVINCE FOR SQUEEZING MONEY FROM PEOPLE, IN SPITE OF NARONG'S PLEA THAT POLICEMAN WAS ONE OF HIS BOYS. NARONG, DWEVER, SENT POLICEMAN BACK TO PHETCHABUN TO WORK FOR BIFGO. AFTER ANTAGONIZING NARONG AND HIS FATHER, MARSHALL THANOM, SAWAT THOUGHT HE WOULD BE MOVED TO BANGKOK, BUT HE SAID PRAPHAT KNEW OF HIS GOOD RECORD AND ASSIGNED HIM TO LOEI WHICH HAS SERIOUS INSURGENT PROBLEM.

7. SAWAT COMPLAINED BITTERLY ABOUT INABILITY OF GOVERNORS TO CONTROL POLICE, AS THEY DID OFFICIALS OTHER DEPARTMENTS IN THEIR PROVINCES. HE HOPED NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVE CIVILIAN OFFICIALS THIS POWER AS WELL AS AUTHORITY INVESTIGATE CRIMES, BOTH OF WHICH HAVE BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION PREVIOUS YEARS. SAWAT CONSIDERS POLICE MALFEASANCE MAJOR OBSTACLE TO WINNING FRIENDSHIP OF PEOPLE TO COUNTER INSURGENCY. HIS CRITICISM REMINISCENT OF THAT BY LATE GOVERNOR YONG OF NAKHON PHANOM WHOM SAWAT WORKED FOR TWO YEARS AGO AS FICE GOVERNOR.

8. IN UBON NAM YEUN SUBDISTRICT OFFICER NAOWARAT BUNSUNG SAID INSURGENTS HAD STOPPED HOLDINGUGASS PROPAGANDA MEETINGS IN VILLAGES SINCE OCT 14. EVEN IN REMOTE VILLAGES IN NAM YEUN VILLAGERS COLLECTED MONEY FOR BANGKOK.

9. KHON KAEN GOVERNOR BURI SAID THERE HAD BEEN SOME STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS BUT NO TROUBLE IN PROVINCE. NEITHER HE NOR OTHER GOVERNORS HAD RECEIVED ANY WORD FROM BANGKOK EXCEPT WHAT THEY HEARD ON RADIO STATIONS.

10. ALSO IN KHON KAEN DIRECTOR NORTHEAST BRANCH OF BANK OF THAILAND MUANG SENIWONG THOUGHT NEW MINFIN BOONMA WOULD TRY TO CARRY OUT REVISION OF REVENUE CODE. MUANG SAID BOONMA HAD PREVIOUSLY TURNED DOWN MINISTRY WHEN IT WAS OFFERED HIM

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R 240443Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7619

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BANGKOK 16494

IN 1972 AND HAD RECENTLY RESIGNED AS UNDERSECRETARY WHEN HE HAD BEEN UNABLE PUSH REVISION OF CODE. MUANG ALSO DOUBTED THAT DR. PUAY WOULD RETURN BECAUSE HE HAD BECOME INVOLVED IN POLITICS AND WAS CLOSE TO PRIDI.

11. MOST GOVERNORS THOUGHT CANDIDATES IN NEXT ELECTIONS LIKELY TO BE MAINLY THOSE WHO HAD RUN PREVIOUSLY. GOVERNOR SUJIN HOPEFUL, HOWEVER, THAT AFTER RECENT EVENTS FUTURE M.P.'S WOULD THINK OF PUBLIC GOOD MORE THAN THEIR PRIVATE INTEREST AS IN PAST. NO GOVERNORS REALLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT ELECTIONS ALTHOUGH THEY RESIGNED TO THEM AS SYMPTOM OF NEWLY WON "DEMOCRACY".

12. GOVERNOR SAWAT TOLD US BANGKOK RADIO HAD ANNOUNCED THAT LAW REGARDING POLITICAL PARTIES WILL BE REVISED. AT THIS EARLY POINT WE FORESEE THERE MAY BE PLETHORA OF PARTIES AND NO SINGLE GOVERNMENT PARTY AS THERE HAS BEEN RECENT ELECTIONS. THIS MIGHT WELL LEAD TO NEW ASSEMBLY CONTAINING M.P.'S FROM NUMBER OF MINOR PARTIES WHICH WOULD TEND TO RESULT IN FLUCTUATION MAJORITY AND WEAK GOVERNMENT, RATHER THAN STRONG SINGLE PARTY MAJORITY GOVERNMENT AS HAS BEEN CASE PREVIOUSLY. BROH-KAHN.
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